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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: patent application of:	Dusan Pavcnik Josef Rösch Frederick Keller	)	
Docket No.:	PA-5252-RFB	)	Group Art Unit:
Serial No.:	09/849,044	)	3738
Filed:	May 4, 2001	)	
For:	ENDOVASCULAR STENT GRAFT	)	Examiner: Alvin J. Stewart

REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
- EXPEDITED PROCEDURE -
EXAMINING GROUP 3738

Commissioner for Patents
Box: After Final
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 10, 2006, please consider the following. Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 13-2528, but not to include the payment of any issue fees.

IN THE CLAIMS:

No claim amendments are requested at this time. The following claim listing is provided for convenience of reference.

1. (Previously Amended) A stent graft comprising:

at least one stent having a proximal end and a distal end and having a lumen extending therethrough between the proximal and distal ends, and

a covering of collagen having an isolated extracellular matrix layer that becomes remodeled by host tissue, secured to the at least one stent and extending therealong between the proximal and distal ends, wherein the covering is a sleeve that initially has a length about equal to twice the length of the at least one stent, a first portion of the sleeve extends along and complements inside surface of the at least one stent, and a second portion of the sleeve is folded back over a proximal end of the at least one stent and then along an outside surface of the at least one stent to the distal end thereof, and wherein the first portion and the second portion of the sleeve are secured to at least the distal end of the at least one stent.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Amended) A stent graft comprising:

at least one stent having a proximal end and a distal end and having a lumen extending therethrough between the proximal and distal ends, and

a covering of collagen having an isolated extracellular matrix layer that becomes remodeled by host tissue, secured to the at least one stent and extending therealong between the proximal and distal ends, wherein the covering is a sleeve that initially has a length about equal to twice the length of the at least one stent, a first portion of the sleeve extends along and complements inside surface of the at least one stent, and a second portion of the sleeve is folded back over a proximal end of the at least one stent and then along an outside surface of the at least one stent to the distal end thereof, wherein the stent graft further comprising a plurality of stents connected together to form a stent

frame with lumens of the respective stents coaligned to form a common continuous lumen extending from a distal stent frame end to a proximal stent frame end, and the covering extending therealong between the proximal and distal stent frame ends.

4. (Original) The stent graft of claim 3, wherein the stent frame has eyelets at the proximal and distal ends.

5. (Original) The stent graft of claim 4, wherein the covering is sutured to the stent frame using a filament of biocompatible material that extends through the eyelets.

6. (Original) The stent graft of claim 3, wherein each of said plurality of stents has eyelets at proximal and distal ends thereof, and the covering is sutured to the stent frame using a filament of biocompatible material that extends through the eyelets.

7. (Original) The stent graft of claim 1, wherein the covering is secured to the at least one stent at locations along the stent using a filament of biocompatible material, the locations being adapted to secure the filament in position against movement axially with respect to the stent during deployment at a treatment site of a patient.

8. (Original) The stent graft of claim 1, wherein the covering is a sleeve of small intestine submucosa material.

9. (Original) The stent graft of claim 8, wherein the sleeve is defined by connecting together along a seam, opposite edges of at least one flat tissue of the small intestine submucosa material.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Submitted) A stent graft device comprising:

a stent frame defining only a single lumen extending from a first end of said stent graft device to a second end of said stent graft device;

said stent frame having a proximal end and a distal end, said stent frame provided by a single stent or by a plurality of stents connected together with lumens of the respective stents coaligned to form a common continuous lumen;

a covering of collagen secured to the stent frame, said covering of collagen having an isolated extracellular matrix layer that becomes remodeled by host tissue; and

wherein the covering is a sleeve having a single lumen therethrough, the sleeve has a length about equal to twice the length of the stent frame, a first portion of the sleeve extends along and complements inside surface of the stent frame, and a second portion of the sleeve is folded back over the proximal end of the stent frame and then along an outside surface of the stent frame to the distal end of the stent frame, and wherein the first portion and the second portion of the sleeve are secured to at least the distal end of the stent frame.

13. (Previously Submitted) The stent graft device of claim 12, wherein the stent frame has eyelets at the proximal and distal ends.

14. (Previously Submitted) The stent graft device of claim 13, wherein the covering is sutured to the stent frame using a filament of biocompatible material that extends through the eyelets.

15. (Previously Submitted) The stent graft device of claim 12, wherein the stent frame is provided by a plurality of stents connected together, and wherein each of said plurality of stents has eyelets at proximal and distal ends thereof and the covering is sutured to the stent frame using a filament of biocompatible material that extends through the eyelets.

16. (Previously Submitted) The stent graft device of claim 12, wherein the covering is secured to the stent frame at locations along the stent frame using a filament of biocompatible material, the locations being adapted to secure the filament in position against movement axially with respect to the stent frame during deployment at a treatment site of a patient.

17. (Previously Submitted) The stent graft device of claim 12, wherein the covering is a sleeve of small intestine submucosa material.

18. (Previously Submitted) The stent graft device of claim 17, wherein the sleeve is defined by connecting together along a seam, opposite edges of at least one flat tissue of the small intestine submucosa material.